

EASTER THOUGHTS.

Dear readers of the EVANGELIST:—This is a beautiful Sunday. And what should make it doubly sacred to every Christian is, it is Easter Sunday—the day we celebrate as the anniversary of Christ's resurrection. This was the greatest event that ever transpired in this world, both as a stupendous miracle and in its relation to the present hope and future destiny of man.

The relation that the *fact* of Christ's resurrection bears to Christianity is, perhaps, not as well understood and appreciated as it should be. That the resurrection of Jesus *is* a fact, I shall not attempt to prove, assuming that all Bible students admit this. But I do want, briefly, to notice some of the benefits this great fundamental doctrine of Christianity confers upon all mankind. The Scriptures affirm that Jesus died for our transgressions, and *rose* for our *justification*. Peter, in speaking of Christian baptism, says: "The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now *save us* * * by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Thus we see that our pardon, justification and salvation are inseparably connected with and made wholly dependent upon the *fact* of Christ's resurrection from the death state.

In fact our hope of future blessedness and our present assurance of divine clemency rests entirely upon this fact, for "If Christ be *not* risen, then our faith is vain, (no matter how loud our profession nor what our past experience has been) we *are yet* in our sins."

If the fact of Christ's resurrection be not true, then we can have no hope *beyond* the grave nor of a *resurrection from the dead*, for Paul plainly teaches that if Christ be not raised, then there will be no resurrection from the dead.

But now is Christ risen and has become the first-fruit of them that slept. So them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him when he comes, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Yes, thank God, it is a fact that Jesus rose from the dead and showed himself alive after his passion, by many INFALLIBLE proofs.

Dear brethren, are you aware that everything pertaining to the salvation of the world, the foundation of faith and hope, the truth of revelation, the foundation and head of the church, Christ's claim to be the true Messiah and the Son of God. All, all depends upon the truth of this great central and fundamental doctrine of Christianity, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Paul says: Rom. 1:4, "That Jesus was declared to be the Son of God, by the resurrection from the dead." During his incarnation, he did many wonderful

work; he healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, unstopped the ears of the deaf, made the dumb to speak, cast out devils and raised the dead to life again. But other good men, as Moses, Elijah and Elisha did as great works as these. Hence, those miracles *did not*, of themselves, prove Jesus to be the Messiah. But they did prove, as Nicodemus said, that God was with him, for "No man can do the miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

After the disciples witnessed his death and burial, they lost all hope in him as the Savior of the world, and were only begotten again unto this hope, by his resurrection from the dead. *This* was the crowning act in the great drama, the maximum proof, the climax in the evidence that culminated in the establishment beyond a doubt, of his claims to divinity and the world's redeemer. It was the *miracle* of miracles. No mere man ever had the power to lay down his life and take it up again, but Jesus did this.

Oh, brethren, how this beautiful day, this anniversary of the Savior's resurrection, which means so much to us and to all the world, should help us to lift up our grateful hearts, our prayers, and our songs of praise to God, the great originator of the plan of salvation which Jesus consummated by his death and resurrection.

There is in humanity a principle of unrest and discontent, never satisfied with present attainments or possessions. Many try to satisfy that feeling in the pursuit of wealth, others in that of honor and power, and some hunger and thirst after righteousness. But none will ever be entirely satisfied until we awake in the likeness of our risen and glorified Lord, as the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. Praise the Lord O my soul.

J. A. RIDENOUR.

Anderson, Ind.

THE WORK IN DAYTON.

Our annual conference entered into an arrangement concerning mission work in Dayton, Ohio. The little church that then existed disbanded, having in view the idea that by so doing they would give the brethren engaged in the mission work a clear field.

For some time the little band remained in a neutral condition until our worthy brother, J. M. Tombaugh came to us and preached several weeks and visited from house to house among the brethren, giving us good Christian encouragement and building us up in the most holy faith.

We are again at work; we have organized a Sabbath school, have regular prayer meeting and preaching as often as our Brother Tombaugh can be among us.

Under his preaching nine precious souls came forward and entered into a newness of life, and many were made to rejoice and take courage.

We desire the prayers of the dear brethren everywhere for the Dayton Brethren Church, not only that we may prosper and gain in membership, but that we may be true and faithful workers in the vineyard of the Lord and that we may be bright and shining lights in Dayton, giving convincing proof that we are guided by His Holy Spirit to do His will and to live lives of holiness.

We would be glad also for brethren coming to or passing through Dayton to call and give us a sermon or even a word of encouragement.

CHARLOTTE T. BOND.

GLEANINGS FROM THE WAYSIDE.

Always something to be thankful for and when we are not able to glean largely we are satisfied with smaller sheaves.

Even the widow's mite was recognized among the more valuable gifts. We have only been home one day in three weeks but we were thankful for that. We will soon be able to so arrange so we can be home more. The revival season will soon close then we can rest awhile. At our last appointment at Maple Grove, we had a good meeting. Baptized two on Sunday afternoon. Notwithstanding the chilly tide a young man and his wife were willing to follow the Master whithersoever he leadeth. The brethren of Maple Grove, or sisters I should say, are renovating and improving the church property, the Sister's Society furnishing the money and the brethren doing the work. They have grained and varnished the seats and all the woodwork inside, and will paper the house this week and paint the spire and make things inviting all around. Come over and see us in our new quarters.

I am at College Corner for a few days. Pray for us that some good may be done.

Yours in the hope of Eternal Life,

WM. W. SUMMERS.

North Manchester, Ind.

MAURERVOWN VIRGINIA.

The conference of the churches in Virginia and Maryland will be held at New Market, Va., from June 1st to 5th. The first of June will be Ministerial day, beginning at one o'clock P. M. Conference begins second day at one P. M. New Market, Va., is on the railroad.

All coming from the east and north will come via Harper's Ferry. The Pennsylvania and Ohio Brethren are invited as well as all others.

C. B. SHAVER.